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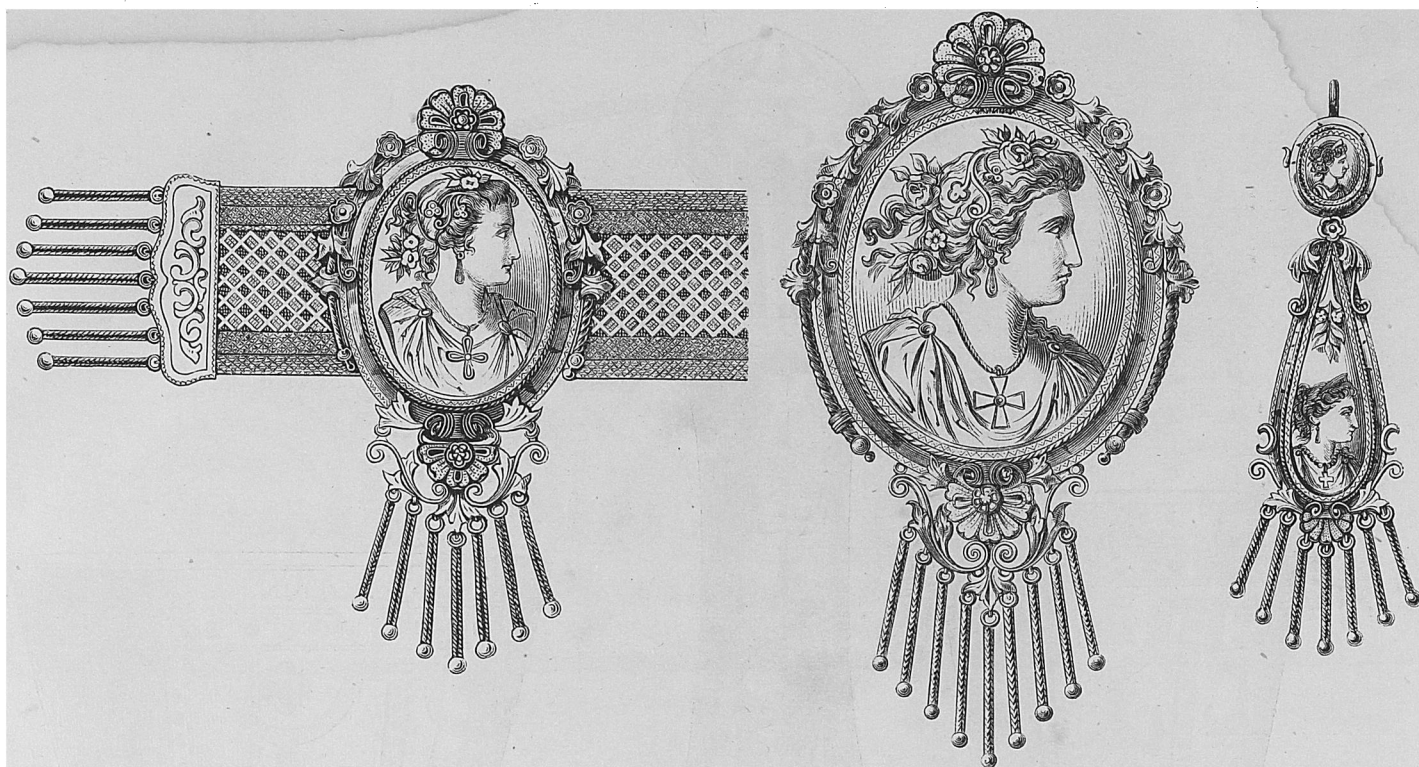
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Nos. 31—33. Modern Jewellery. Messrs. Geo. Ehni, Stuttgart.

VARIOUS.

Leather Paper in Japan.

One of the most interesting and peculiar productions of paper is that which is made to imitate leather. The surface has every appearance of finished skin, with extraordinary firmness and elasticity, and it can be subjected to washing without any injury from water. These peculiarities are not so much due to the superior quality of the material as to the mode of manufacture, the surfaces remaining intact, even when the paper is very thick, while with it, paper of this kind soon loses its firmness and the grain is impaired.

Japanese leather paper is made extensively at Flangawa, near Yeddo. It is made in sheets of 60 centimetres in length and 40 centimetres in width. The paper out of which it is prepared is not dissimilar to our packing paper, and is made in Southern Japan, near Nagasaki, and thence taken to other provinces, where it is manufactured into different forms for various uses. The leather paper is made in the following manner:—It is dampened and laid in pairs between two, peculiarly-prepared forms, made of paper also, only more highly varnished leather paper; they have a very strong surface coating, but running only in one direction.

Before putting the paper in these forms the sheets are stretched a little in the direction of their width. If there are several sheets, they are rolled on a cylindrical piece of wood, the grain of the paper running in an opposite direction from that of the wood; they are then unrolled from this on a cloth; to keep them in shape, and put into a form with a hole in the top large enough to admit the end of the wooden cylinder. The roll of paper is then subjected to a pressure of 200 or 300 pounds. After the roll has been reduced to three-quarters of its original length by this pressure, it is taken out of the press and turned, the fold flattened out, and again pressed to remove the deep marks.

After passing the paper through rollers several times, the upper surface acquires the appearance of leather; it is then co-

lored, oiled with a kind of rape-seed oil, varnished, put once more in the press, which completes it, with the exception of drying. By means of parallel or cross lines on the rollers the upper surface of the paper is made to resemble leather exactly in all its varieties. The paper being pressed to one third or even one half its original thickness, and the passage through the rollers giving it a fine-grained appearance, makes it valuable to picture printers, as the surface has the appearance of crepe silk.

There is another variety of leather paper which is smooth and transparent, resembling hog-skin very much. This is manufactured by a process of hammering, and is the highest priced, costing 27 cents per sheet, while the other ranges from 8 to 14 cents, some very fine selling at 8 cents per sheet. "*Ex*" in "*Technologist*".

A Useful Cement.

An excellent cement for fixing iron or stone is made by mixing together commercial glycerine and ground litharge. Many other applications of this compound are extremely useful. As a cement for joining chemical apparatus it offers many advantages, for it is unaffected by chlorine, hydrochloric acid, sulphur vapour, sulphurous acid, nitric acid, and indeed resists most corrosive vapours. Further than this, it withstands the solvent action of alcohol, ether, sulphide of carbon, and all hydro-carbon vapours. It hardens in from ten to thirty minutes if mixed of the consistence of a thick dough and sets under water as quickly as in air. Moreover, it will stand a very much higher temperature than any oil cement. The composition may be also employed for moulds for electrotyping. For this purpose glycerine must be stirred with the litharge until a mixture of the proper consistence is obtained. The article to be copied must be smeared with dilute glycerine before the mixture is poured on, and plenty of time must be given for it to set.